



## George Brent Timeline

August 1929 – George Brent is born in Těscö, Czechoslovakia.

November 1938 – The area around Těscö comes under Hungarian control, and Jews are subject to persecution and forced labor. George's family is spared some of the harsher treatment because his father, a pharmacist, is essential to the non-Jewish residents of the town.

Spring 1944 – Hungary is occupied by the Nazis and Jews were forced into ghettos. George's family was able to remain in their home until a non-Jew arrived to take over the pharmacy.

May 21, 1944 – George's family is taken to the ghetto.

May 24, 1944 – The Jews of Těscö, including George's family, are put on a train to Auschwitz-Birkenau, a concentration camp and killing center in occupied Poland.

May 26, 1944 – George and his family arrive at Auschwitz-Birkenau and undergo *selektion*, the process of sorting concentration camp prisoners to determine those who would perform forced labor and those who would be killed immediately. George and his father are selected for work; his mother and younger brother are sent to the gas chambers.

Late Spring 1944 – With help from an uncle, George avoids *selektion* until he is sent, with his uncle, to an unnamed camp nearby, in Upper Silesia. There, George shines shoes and does chores in the SS barracks, allowing him to be protected from the weather and to receive slightly better rations.

January 1945 – George is sent on a Death March and then taken by coal train to Mauthausen, a concentration camp in Nazi-controlled Austria. Two weeks later he is sent to Ebensee, a sub-camp of Mauthausen, where prisoners dug tunnels through the mountains to provide a site safe from air raids.

May 2, 1945 – The SS abandons Ebensee.

May 5, 1945 – George is liberated by the American 3rd Army. He works as a nurse's aide, helping other survivors.

Summer 1945 – George is repatriated to Budapest, Hungary, and lives with two great-aunts who remained in their home throughout the war.

September 1946 – George learns that his father is alive and receiving treatment for tuberculosis in Germany. George smuggles himself into Germany to reunite with his father. He attends an ORT school and studies to be a dental technician.

October 1, 1946 – George arrives in the United States. His father joins him soon after.



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Early 1950s – George is drafted and serves in the Air Force Reserves during the Korean War. Following his discharge, George attends dental school and practices dentistry until his retirement in 2011.

1960 – George marries. He and his wife have four daughters.

## **Glossary**

*Auschwitz Album*: A collection of photographs documenting official visits to Auschwitz as well as the daily lives of guards and other staff at the camp. The Album also documents the deportation of Jews from Tésco, Hungary, to Birkenau on May 24, 1944. Several photos of George and his father appear in the album.

*Liberation*: Term used to describe the freeing of Jews and other persecuted peoples from Nazi control, usually by Allied armies.

*Raus*: German word meaning “out”

*Schnell*: German word meaning “fast” or “hurry”

*SS*: *Schutzstaffel*, or *Protection Squads*. Originally established as Adolf Hitler’s personal bodyguard, the SS would be specifically tasked with leading the “Final Solution,” the murder of European Jews. In this role, members of the SS were responsible for operating the Killing Centers.